10/24/66

Dear Bill and,

Again, I am writing to encourage you to not take your current reverses as hard as you seemed to be when we spoke. Things are going to continue to go our way. Reflection convinces me it is a good thing for Liebeler to be sounding off. I am very anxious to see exactly what he is saying, if possible in hisnexact words. I think the defense is taking a new line and it may be he is part of a concerted defense of a certain and probably illiberal character.

This will, I think, be a happy day for me. Penn phoned last night and he's coming to D.C. this morning. I'll meet his plane at th airport and we'll have some time together until I see what Ramparts or Mark Stone have lined up for him. He thinks he'll be free until about three. Maybe we can get together again tonight. I'm looking forward to this very much, for I'm fond of Penn, who is the really courageous one among us. He is the one who really ran risks.

For a progress report:I've read most of WHITEWASH II and made a few minor corrections. I'd planned to cut it some but abandoned that to get it done and be relatively free in case you want me. The only thing that I can now anticipate that might interfere with this is the consummation of something I have been working on to improve my distribution. During the time I've been working on II I've had to more or less abandon WHITEWASH and our financial stake in it. During this time those on our side who I thought might be helpful have, on the contrary, successfully done what it was in their power to do to prevent its mention. Now I've got to find time to redouble my efforts in this direction. Inrealize that west-coast appearances will help this materially and I'm more than willing if for this reason alone. I've been thinking since you phoned and I still believe the first thing is to let Liebeler shoot his bolt and if you do want me to come out let me get into a position to do more than attack him which I'm prepared to do without further preparation (thoughx preparation would be better). I'd like to makewspecific answer to what he has just been saying and if possible, doing. In WHITEWASH II I answer everything Specter has said of which I'm aware. This is not a piece of Fonzi milktoast (I note that Fonzi, despite his associati with and indebtedness to one of us and despite his residence in a city in which WHITEWASH at least at the time of his writing was the best-known book, mentioned everything, including what had not yet appeared and minor magazine writings and not WHITEWASH. This is truenof his review of Sauvage in yesterday's Book Wekk also). I begin in the special part devoted to Specter by calling him a liar, no minced words, saying this is actionable if untrue, daring him to sue, and then proving it ith his own words and actions. That's whatx I'd like to do out there with Liebeler. I've done him in in the new book, but solidly. I'll go further in public. I think I can do enough ithout revealing the contents of the new book. Beside what I've sent you, there is his double suppression of Zapruder when twice at least Zapruder tried to tell him the President was shot before 210. I believe I used only one of these in WHITEWASH (you can find all of this stuff through the index - I'll write it out as soon as I get a chance), his personal knowledge that the Zapruder film had been doctored (I'd forgotten this when I wrote WHITEWASH, but I had it noted and marked, and I use it in WW II), the Hudson bit, when he learned of al the tampering with the surrounding, including the moving of the signs (I've carried this much fartur in the new book, with copies of the various proofs of what this accomplished and proof of how it destroyed the possibility of accuracy in the reconstruction). I've got an artist making an exhibit for me to show just how gross this error was. Today I'll try and bring Penn and my artist together because if Penn does more a little good art work may help. I'll jog him about this exhibit in case I do come out, too....And meanwhile, as she can, my wife is plugging away at retyping of the new book. She is making a carbon and preparing to index as soon as it is typed and read and checked. As of last night she had about a sixth of it done. This week I'll take over all of the shipping aside from the billings to give her more typing time. If when she gets up in a couple of hours she finds I can get by for another week without washing, she plans to skip the laundry and get right back on it. She hasn't cleaned the house or anything for a while just to get this done. But she does still have about 400 double-spaced spages of about 250 words each to go. This is a longer book that WHITE* WASH. I'm afraid I'll have to use a smaller appendix or a thinner paper to ke p it dowr

to the weight of the present book. This not alone for cost reasons, but for convenience and time in Mailing. The present one fits a standard envelope that we've had printed and goes for minimim rate.

The Saturday night meeting with those members of the staff of the Baltimore Sun who wanted to meet me was, all in all, a success. The assistant city editor of the morning paper was there and he is a younf aginner, having adopted the proper get-ahead attitude. All the others wound up on my side, including a rather good cartoonist and the "star" investigative reporter. I was surprsied at the large proportion of those who spontaneously believe Johnson was involved. Some of them will want to attend the Metromedia preview of the "special" and they are going to speak to their TV editors to see if they'd like to, which will be good.

The thing Penn was going to check out for me did not check out. He told me this by phone. This does not disprove anything. It just does not prove it.

What do you think of my suggestion on needling Liebeler? If you approve it, do you think you can get anyone out there to do it? Is Sahl pro-Lane only? If there any possibility of radio: I hope Penn will have time to come back from Chicago if I can get him on WCAU. When we meet this a.m. and I learn his schedule, and while Ramparts is footing his bills, probably with other people's money from my limited experience with them (all I want!) I'll try and get this arranged by phone, even going up and meeting him there is he feels there may be some questions that might come in in four hours from a very well informed audience that he'd rather refer. I do not know how broadly he has studied the subject. I can be there in 3½ hours and I have free sleeping accomodations fifteen minutes from the station if, should I go, I'm not wide awake to drive home at 2 a.m., so this is no real trouble. I can leave here 5 p.m. and be there by air time. I hope he can do it and I can swing it for him. I'd rather he did it alone. I think a dose of those dry Texas winds will do the east a little good.

Also, if there are any developments on Lifton's Liebeler association, please let me know ~~also~~, for when he phoned me on several occasions saying it was for Ramparts I spoke to him freely. I have already learned that this was, with others, a mistake. If there is anything I might want to prepare for it, would be good to know.

Chins up! And by the way, does it look like Liebeler is getting any other help. Any signs of anyone doing his public-relations work for him? His publisher is to be Norton, andpossibly they might be doing it. But there are also other possibilities that might have meaning.

Best